

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, October 5, 2000

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 5, 2000.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MICHAEL K. SIMPSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend Norman B. Steen, The Christian Reformed Church of Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, Maker of Heaven and Earth, Lord of the Nations, You've got the whole world in Your strong and loving hands, this grand Capitol building, our beloved Nation, and all people everywhere.

As this session of the House is drawing to a close, I ask You, Lord, for the blessing of Your wisdom to fall on these Congressmen and Congresswomen as they seek the common good in their deliberations and debate on this day.

Lord, give them understanding, patience and goodwill as they struggle to accomplish their legislative goals, and with this big push now to wrap things up before the campaign season moves into high gear, give our leaders health, strength and endurance to be able to work effectively under all of these pressures.

And above all, Lord, may Your love of justice and mercy and peace be reflected in the work of these dedicated public servants on this day for the blessing of our Nation, for the blessing of the world.

Yours, Lord God, is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. RIV-

ERS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. RIVERS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills and a concurrent resolution of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 1162. An act to designate the bridge on United States Route 231 that crosses the Ohio River between Maceo, Kentucky, and Rockport, Indiana, as the "William H. Natcher Bridge".

H.R. 1605. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 402 North Walnut Street in Harrison, Arkansas, as the "J. Smith Henley Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

H.R. 4318. An act to establish the Red River National Wildlife Refuge.

H.R. 4642. An act to make certain personnel flexibilities available with respect to the General Accounting Office, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4806. An act to designate the Federal building located at 1710 Alabama Avenue in Jasper, Alabama, as the "Carl Elliott Federal Building".

H.R. 5284. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 101 East Main Street in Norfolk, Virginia, as the "Owen B. Pickett United States Courthouse".

H. Con. Res. 399. Concurrent resolution recognizing the 25th anniversary of the enactment of the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 4002. An act to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to revise and improve provisions relating to famine prevention and freedom from hunger.

H.R. 4386. An act to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide medical assistance for certain women screened and found to have breast or cervical cancer under a federally funded screening program, to amend the Public Health Service Act and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to surveillance and information concerning the relationship between cervical cancer and the human papillomavirus (HPV) and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2412. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the National Transportation Safety Board for fiscal years 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 103-296, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, and in consultation with the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member of the Finance Committee, appoints David Podoff, of Maryland, as a member of the Social Security Advisory Board, vice Lori L. Hansen.

THE REVEREND NORMAN B. STEEN

(Mr. HOEKSTRA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to welcome the Reverend Norman Steen, pastor of the Christian Reformed Church of Washington, D.C. as a guest chaplain for the House of Representatives.

The Washington, D.C. Christian Reformed Church has a proud history of more than 50 years in the District of Columbia. The church was founded during World War II by members of the Christian Reformed Church who came to Washington from Michigan, Iowa, New Jersey, Washington, and California and from throughout the United States in order to serve our Nation.

Since that time, the church has rooted itself in Northeast Washington and has seen many changes in this city, all the while serving its members and the community around it.

Reverend Steen has been the pastor of the church since April of 1999. Prior to moving with his wife, Barb, he was a minister at a church in my hometown, the 14th Street Christian Reformed Church of Holland, Michigan. During his distinguished 25-year career as a minister, Norm has also served churches in Ridgewood, New Jersey, and Parkersburg, Iowa.

I hope the entire House will join me in welcoming Reverend Norm Steen as our guest chaplain today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain fifteen 1-minute speeches on each side.

CONGRATULATING IAN AMBER

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate a remarkable young man and true champion in my congressional district, Ian Amber. Ian is a straight A honor student at Palmetto Senior High School where he excels in various academic organizations. But unlike most teenagers, Ian had to overcome a great obstacle not normally faced by students.

At age 10, Ian was diagnosed with leukemia and underwent 3 years of intense chemotherapy treatment. Through perseverance, he beat cancer; and today, Ian spends his time helping children with life-threatening diseases.

He formed Kids That Care Pediatric and Cancer Fund, the only kid-run organization affiliated with a major hospital in South Florida, an organization in which he raises funds for sick children.

He also created Trading Places, a sensitive-training program for oncology nurses.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to help me in recognizing Ian's selfless achievements, and in commending him for being a shining example to us all. He represents Miami Palmetto well. He represents all of us well.

THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Broadway has announced a new play called "The Vagina Monologues." I quote, the promo states that "Vagina Monologues uses humor and drama to explore such things as sexual fantasies, orgasms, pelvic examinations and rape." Now if that is not enough to entice your condominium, this vaginal virtuoso is being billed as theater at its finest.

Unbelievable. What is next? Rectal Diaries? Men are dropping like flies in America from prostate cancer and Broadway is promoting vaginal titillation.

Beam me up. I advise all New York men to sleep on their stomachs, and I yield back all the STDs on the East Coast.

ANY MORE STORIES?

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, here we go again. First it is inventing the Internet, then it is drugs for his mother-in-law and his dog. Now it appears the Vice President's imagination has really run wild again. When Governor Bush mentioned traveling to a disaster area with the head of FEMA, Mr. GORE added that he traveled with him too.

Untrue. Then claimed to be a strong supporter of the lockbox for Social Security and Medicare. Surprise, surprise, the Democrat filibuster holding up this legislation is waiting for his first sign of support. What about that poor Florida girl forced to stand in her class of 36 because there is no room for her desk? Guess what? Not true again.

What is that phrase about pants on fire? Any more stories?

THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

(Ms. RIVERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. RIVERS. Mr. Speaker, the House has done its job, we passed the Violence Against Women Act by a vote of 415-3. Nevertheless, the authorization ran out on September 30, 2000.

This critical bill is supported by police officers, judges, prosecutors, governors, State attorneys general, social workers, men and women and children's advocates around the Nation. It deserves immediate attention from the other body.

The Violence Against Women Act was originally passed in 1994 and authorized over a billion dollars for law enforcement grants, judicial training, shelters, a national hotline, child abuse and prevention programs. Thousands of victims from every State, race, and socioeconomic level have relied on these services for protection from violence.

VAWA has saved lives and helped rebuild even more, and it has served to break the cycle of violence in so many families, by preventing children from perpetuating the violence they witness.

With the authorization already expired, I respectfully urge the other body to pass this important legislation.

SQUANDERED OPPORTUNITIES

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, Governor George W. Bush has rightly pointed out that this boom economy is an opportunity we should not squander. It is an opportunity to get our fiscal house in order to shore up programs like Social Security and Medicare for the next generation.

Unfortunately, the opposition does not seem to see it that way. This is the fourth year in a row that the Republican Congress will pay down the public debt. That will bring us to half a trillion dollars in paid-back debt, and we will do it while preserving the Social Security and Medicare trust funds 100 percent intact.

Mr. Speaker, 22 days ago we sent a letter to the President asking him to join us in this effort, but he has refused to respond.

The only thing we have heard on the matter is what the President said to the newspapers: "It depends on what our spending commitments are."

In other words, he would rather add billions of dollars in new spending than pay down the debt, and that is what Governor Bush means when he talks about squandered opportunities.

APPROVE COMMONSENSE GUN SAFETY LEGISLATION

(Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, the clock is ticking and soon the 106th Congress may adjourn without passing common sense gun safety legislation. Today, we join people throughout the Nation concerned about young people and gun violence.

Earlier this week, I joined the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), the minority leader, and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) in calling on the gentleman from Illinois (Speaker HASTERT) to use his influence to complete work on the stalled Juvenile Justice Conference.

With the help of the gentleman from Illinois (Speaker HASTERT), we can jumpstart the conference to approve child safety locks, to close the gun show loophole and to ban high-capacity ammunition clips. I am pleased that Senator JOHN MCCAIN has endorsed closing the gun show loophole.

Governor Pataki has already brought common sense gun laws to my home State of New York. We need to bring similar legislation to all 50 States. Is there grassroots support for this legislation? You bet.

The Million Mom March demonstrated that people across the Nation want to make their communities safe from gun violence. Just this week, college students around the Nation participated in First Monday 2000. I am pleased that students from Long Island's Hofstra University participated in this grassroots educational issue.

To date, the gun lobby has prevented the Congress from approving national gun safety legislation. We do not have to repeat the past. I ask the gentleman from Illinois (Speaker HASTERT) to consider this.

DEBT REDUCTION STILL BEING HELD HOSTAGE

(Mr. HERGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, today is day 23 of the debt reduction held hostage by the Clinton-Gore administration. It has been 23 days since Congress proposed to lock away 100 percent of the Social Security and Medicare surpluses and dedicate at least 90 percent